cricket; permission to senior citizen (above 65) to cross at Wagah on foot; holding of visa camps in different cities to benefit the people; increasing the capacity of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service by running more buses; the establishment of links between the Coast Guards authorities of the two countries; the non-arrest by either side of fishermen of the other country within a certain band on the sea; provision of free medical treatment to a second lot of 20 Pakistani children; resumption of passenger shipping services between Mumbai and Karachi; commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarbad, and a bus or rail link between Khokrapar and Munabao, and further increase in size of the respective missions after resumption of civil aviation and as technical level talks begin for resumption of the rail link.

(c) and (d) Pakistan's initial response on 29 October, 2003 was inadequate. While welcoming some of the proposals, like allowing senior citizens to cross Wagah on foot; establishing links between Indian Coast Guards and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency; and resumption of bilateral sporting contacts, Pakistan opted to politicize the humanitarian gestures and attached impractical, extraneous and delaying conditions to others.

However, on 23 November 2003, Pakistan Prime Minister Jamali responded positively to the Indian proposals of 22nd October, and agreed to a number of measures. He also announced that Pakistan armed forces along the Line of Control (LoC) have been issued instructions to ceasefire along the LoC with effect from Eid al-Fitr. Subsequently, the Director General Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries agreed to observe cease fire on the International Border, LoC and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the midnight of November 25, 2003.

Anti-Indian activities in Bangladesh

289. SHRI R PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that insurgents with strong criminal links are being given special and favourable treatment on the Bangladeshi soil for carrying out anti-Indian propaganda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/contemplated with regard thereto so that Bangladesh does not become a hub for anti-Indian activities for insurgency and militancy in North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Reports appear from time to time of activities of Indian insurgent groups inside Bangladesh. This matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at both official and political levels and specific information in this regard has also been conveyed to them. The Government of Bangladesh has been reiterating its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for activities prejudicial to the interest of India.

Release of Indian prisoners by Pakistan

290. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners released by the Pakistani authorities; and;

(b) the number of Indian prisoners still in Pakistani Jails and vice-versa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Pakistan, till date, has released 623 Indian fishermen and 38 civilian prisoners during the year 2003.

(b) As per available information, Pakistan has 28 Indian fishermen and 882 Indian civilian prisoners under its custody, and there are 77 Pakistani fishermen under detention in India.